

**ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**  
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Hon. Barry Weinstein, MD

**Memorandum**

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**To: Co-Chairs Clyde Burmaster & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Transportation Subcommittee Chair Hal Morse**

**Re: May and June, 2005 meetings**

**Date: June 24, 2005**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Transportation Subcommittee met May 13 and June 10, 2005 at the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Lehman, Ruzala, and Wendel, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein. Present for the June meeting, a joint meeting with the Tourism & Culture Subcommittee, were subcommittee members Morse, Burmaster, Ferraro, and Ruzala, as well as Tourism & Culture Subcommittee member Praetzel, and Paul Tronolone representing ENRP Member Meredith Andreucci.

**Job Access & Public Transportation:**

A coordination effort was completed last year to analyze locations of transit dependant populations and their proximity to emerging service sector jobs in the CBD-airport corridors for both Niagara Falls and Buffalo. The analysis also included a follow-on mechanism to develop an early action system to integrate transit and economic development in a proactive manner. Contacts have been identified and a more formal structure is being established.

**Cultural Tourism Signage:**

Discussion of opportunities to coordinate and deploy better signage in the two counties led to a suggestion that three existing initiatives could be progressed in a coordinated fashion. The Buffalo Cultural Tourism Directional Signage project, the Niagara Falls Downtown, and Shoreline Corridor Wayfinding Projects were identified as the initiatives that might be bundled for possible state transportation enhancement funding. Doing so would leverage funding for all three projects and allow for possible unification of design and/or implementation.

Based on this thought, the Subcommittee met jointly with the Tourism & Culture Subcommittee to learn more about all three projects and determine if they could be a fit for packaging. Following descriptions of all three, it was decided that while there are some significant differences in the projects overall there are numerous benefits to jointly applying for enhancement funding.

**The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership Transportation Subcommittee requests concept approval to further examine and develop a joint application for state transportation enhancement funding for the Niagara Falls Wayfinding, Buffalo Cultural Tourism Directional, and Shoreline Corridor Wayfinding Signage Projects.**

Specifically, the Subcommittee will address the following issues:

- Who would be the applicant, or would multiple applicants be bundled;
- Who will prepare the grant application;
- Who would administer the funded contract;
- What will be the source(s) of the local share (typically 20 percent of total cost – cash or in-kind);
- Are the cost estimates and scope of in-kind and cash expenditures similar across all projects;
- What group will coordinate the grant implementation, and should they (or someone else) coordinate appearance, locations, etc. prior to implementation.

The Subcommittee will examine these and other issues, and bring back to the group for consideration a draft application and revised project specifications (if needed).

Other Topics:

At the May meeting, a review of possible opportunities for the Committee to engage in the near term included several topics such as: the Bi-National Tourism Alliance, alternative fuels / bio-fuels, munitions recycling, and NASCAR facilities.